

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) UPDATE

CRANEY ISLAND EIS and MITIGATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS REPORT

Stakeholders Meeting
December 14, 2004

NEPA Technical Committee/Mitigation Subcommittee

College of William and Mary

Elizabeth River Project

James River Association

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Old Dominion University

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

VA. Department of Conservation and Recreation

VA. Department of Environmental Quality

VA. Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

Virginia Institute of Marine Science

VA. Marine Resources Commission

Virginia Port Authority

Wetlands Watch

Meetings To Date

- NEPA Technical Committee
 - November 2000
 - May 2001
 - October 2001
 - April 2002
 - September 2004
- Mitigation Subcommittee
 - June 2002
 - July 2002
 - August 2002
 - September 2002
 - October 2002
 - January 2003
 - March 2003
 - June 2003
 - April to June 2004
(Individual Member Meetings)
 - July 2004
 - November 2004

Studies Conducted to Date

- 1. Craney Island Feasibility Study -- Alternatives Analysis, USACE, 2003.**
- 2. Craney Island Project: Protecting and Monitoring Endangered and Threatened Species – Final Report 2002, College of William and Mary, 2003.**
- 3. Macrobenthic communities in the vicinity of Craney Island, Old Dominion University, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Norfolk, VA. 1986.**
- 4. Sediment profile camera sampling at the Craney Island Disposal Area. VIMS 1988.**
- 5. Hydrodynamic Model Study – Port of Hampton Roads – Eastward Expansion of Craney Island – Lower James River and Elizabeth River”, VIMS, 2002.**
- 6. Habitat Equivalency Analysis: An Overview of a Benthic Community Application, NOAA, 2003.**

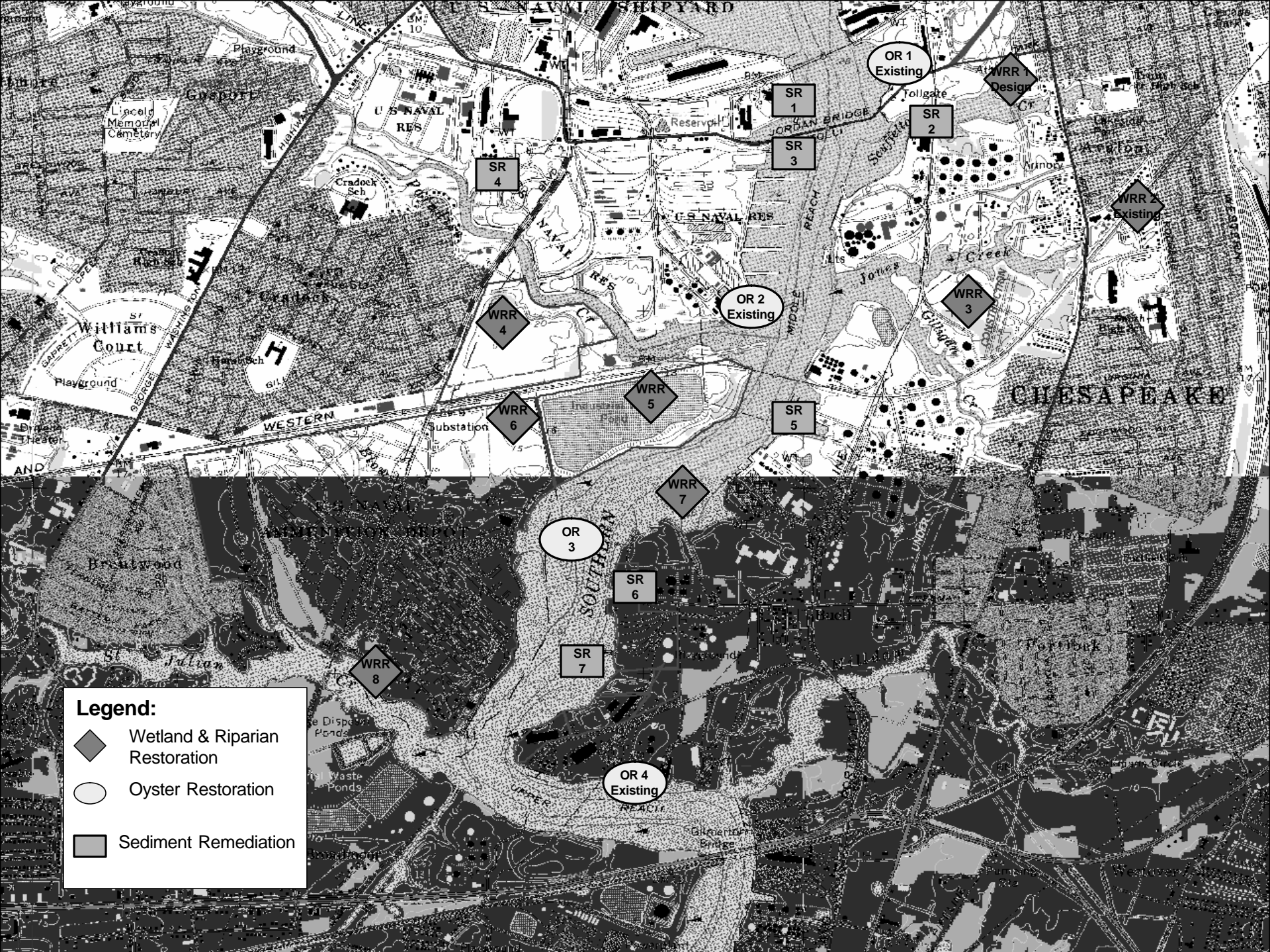
Studies Conducted to Date

- 7. Craney Island Expansion Feasibility Study – Planning Aid Report: Baseline Biological Conditions and Impacts of Eastward Expansion, USFWS, 2002.**
- 8. Impact of the Craney Island Extension on Abundance, Biomass, and Diversity of Dominant Benthic Species, VIMS, 2002.**
- 9. Cumulative Effects Assessment of the Eastward Expansion of the Craney Island Dredged Material Management Area (CIDMMA), University of Oklahoma, 2004.**
- 10. Hydrodynamic Model Study – Eastward Expansion of Craney Island, Impacts due to APM Terminal Dredging and the Berthing of Ships at CIEE and APM Sites, VIMS, 2004.**
- 11. Scaling Compensatory Restorations for the Craney Island Expansion Project in the Elizabeth River Estuary, UNC, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 2003.**




Mitigation Plan Development – Progress to Date

6 Criteria Developed to Evaluate Sites:

- 1. “Landscape Approach” – Potential for large scale ecosystem benefits in conjunction with other sites**
- 2. Connectivity with existing restoration areas or proposed restoration project**
- 3. In-kind relatedness**
- 4. Location relative to impact site**
- 5. Publicly recognized value, Public education opportunities**
- 6. Risk / Probability of success in aiding to restore lost ecological function**



Legend:

-  Wetland & Riparian Restoration
-  Oyster Restoration
-  Sediment Remediation

Mitigation Plan Development – Progress to Date

Over 30 Potential Sites have been identified in the Elizabeth and James Rivers in 6 different Categories:

- 1. Wetlands Restoration**
 - 2. Oyster Restoration/Reef Creation**
 - 3. Sediment Remediation**
 - 4. Wetland /Riparian Conservation**
 - 5. Avian Habitat Management**
 - 6. Derelict Vessel Removal**
- 

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Mitigation Subcommittee #11 – December 16, 2004

NEPA Technical Committee #6 – January 2005

Future Milestones

- **Formulation Analysis Notebook (March 05)** - Prepare document (FAN) which presents general EIS content, scope and conceptual mitigation plan.
- **Alternative Formulation Briefing (May 05)** - Present content of FAN to HQ, NAD, and Sponsors.
- **Draft Feasibility Report and EIS (July 05)** - Send Draft Feasibility Report and EIS for review and comment to all agencies and stakeholders.
- **Final Feasibility Report and EIS (Dec 05)** – Complete EIS and conceptual mitigation plan.